

## PERTINENT POLITICAL PRATTLE

(By A. T. Edmonston.)

Jefferson City, Mo., May 3.—As the day of the State-wide primary, Tuesday, August 3, nears, it becomes more and more evident that the wet and dry issue is the salient one in both the Democratic and Republican parties and that it will be fought out along that line for United States Senatorial and gubernatorial honors. It is also plain at the present moment for obvious reasons fully explained further along that if this preliminary skirmish was pulled off immediately that John M. Atkinson, former Representative from Ripley county, now practicing law in St. Louis, would gather in the Democratic nomination for governor, and lawyer Arthur M. Hyde of Trenton, Grundy county, would safely land the same glory on the "gop" ticket. Atkinson and Hyde are the dry standard bearers for their respective parties and have no opposition to that arid task.

For United States Senator, Seldon P. Spencer, the present incumbent, would easily be re-nominated by the Republican party with a vote big enough to exceed that cast for both of his opponents, James L. Minner, the former railroad counselor, and Col. Dwight M. Davis, the St. Louis war hero, combined. So far Breckenridge Long of St. Louis, Federal Assistant Secretary of State, official address, Washington, D. C., is in the lead for the Democratic nomination for Senator, but this situation may change at any moment for the chief reason that the "wet" half of the "Only Reliable Party" has not yet developed a candidate sufficiently strong enough to be generally accepted and looked upon as the Bacchanal leader. It is true that John C. Higdon, the St. Louis patent lawyer, has officially filed against Breck Long for the place on a decidedly "waterlogged" platform, but so far he has not grown formidable enough to attract attention anywhere in Missouri. Two years ago when he took a similar active part in the preliminary senatorial tournament with Joseph W. Folk and X. P. Willey as his opponents, the strength he mustered over the State was only 7,907 votes out of a total of the 195,696 cast by Democratic electors.

## Why Atkinson and Hyde Now Lead

It is conceded by both Republican and Democratic leaders that half of the vote which is to be cast by either party at the August primary will be dry, and therefore, for this sole reason, will go to the gubernatorial and senatorial candidates who have been more or less active in behalf of the prohibition cause in the past.

Hyde is the Republican credited with the leading part in placing Trenton, his home burg, and Grundy county, into the local option column. If this was the only fact to give his gubernatorial candidacy prominence he and Editor E. E. McJinney of Springfield, the only present opponent, would evenly split the votes of the "gops" in the primary contest, but there are other features to this race which throw an overwhelming advantage in the direction of the Trenton aspirant. The 60,000 negro "gops" of Missouri have announced through their leaders that they will not support McJinney neither at the primary or the general election for the anti-Ethiopian attitude of his paper, the Springfield Republican, thirteen years ago when two or three of the race were lynched and their bodies burned during the race riot in that Ozark metropolis. Another Hyde strength is that thousands of rural Republicans who are really neutral on the liquor question detest half of the "gops" of St. Louis, Kansas City and the "wet" counties of the State for their strong pro-German and un-American activities and proclivities, this element now forming half of the force which is behind Editor McJinney for the reason that he is recognized as the "wet" candidate. This big army of true-blue American Republicans will not vote the party ticket next November if Hyde should, by some unexpected mishap, not be nominated at the primary.

Here is the Democratic gubernatorial situation at the present moment. To start with each of the candidates stands for the war and other policies and activities of President Wilson and for the League of Nations so that they are all even on that score. The dry vote of the party, constituting at least two-fifths of the total which will be cast at the August primary, is nearly solid for Atkinson, and for personal and other reasons some of the liberal Democrats favor his candidacy. With the other three-fifths of the vote apparently hopelessly divided, the present moment, between four other candidates and not one able to corral another two-fifths, what will happen on primary day is plain to all unless some other big national or State issue bobs up suddenly to overshadow the wet and dry problem. Judge Charles H. Mayer of St. Joseph gained some more strength two days ago through being endorsed by Festus J. Wade, the well known St. Louis financier. It helps his candidacy in St. Louis and other eastern Missouri industrial centers. Representative Frank H. Farris of Phelps county and Lieutenant-Governor Crossley are holding their own and are very active in their campaign work. The talk of politicians is the surprising good form that Col. Ruby D. Garrett who officially got into the running last Thursday, is showing. While the last candidate to enter for the Democratic nomination there are those who say he will soon let all others know and realize he is in the running until the primary day results are announced. When the war broke out, he was practicing law in Kansas City. Having seen three years' service as a young man in the regular army and being a former member of the National Guards of Missouri he quickly enlisted as a private, becoming a member of the illustrious Rainbow Division which gave such valorous service in France. He was several times cited for personal bravery and was mustered out at the close of the war as a Lieutenant-Colonel. The splendid military record of this soldier-lawyer, who in addition, stands high in his profession and in business in western-central Missouri where he is best known and who has no political

or any other kind of a past to explain, may win over enough Democratic support before the August primary for his candidacy to outshine all others that day. Who can foretell?

## Present Line-up of Missouri Democracy

Under ordinary—and that means the present conditions, and that the demobilized soldiers of Missouri do not take an active part in the contest—Atkinson, if his four adversaries stay in the running, will become the nominee. The cause of the liberals of Missouri Democracy, as huge as its united strength is, will be badly snowed under on primary day through being so widely scattered. While it is admitted by all that Lieutenant-Governor Crossley will gather in some dry Democratic votes and thereby reduce the Atkinson plurality he will also receive many wet votes and therefore will at least run as well as the others in the race for second place. Representative Farris will heavily carry the Sixteenth Congressional District and run either second or third in the Eighth, Thirteenth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, and Fifteenth. Atkinson will carry the Fourteenth and Thirteenth, and run at least second in the First, Second, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Fifteenth Districts.

Col. Garrett is now conceded the Fifth District which is Kansas City and Jackson county, and will hotly contest for second place in every other congressional district, save the Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth, which comprise St. Louis City and county, with a different opponent. In St. Louis city he may run as high as third, judging from the present line-up there.

Lieutenant-Governor Crossley is expected to carry the Seventh District which includes Johnson county, his home which will go almost unanimously for him, and he will gather in some votes in Kansas City and St. Joseph where he has many personal friends, and throughout the State. Judge Mayer is conceded the Fourth District which includes St. Joseph, his home, by a large lead and he has considerable strength in St. Louis and Boone county and along the south bank of the Missouri river, and in North Missouri where his chief opponents will be Atkinson and Col. Garrett. It is expected that Judge Mayer, Atkinson, Col. Garrett and Representative Farris will run a close race in Springfield, with the advantage in favor of the Ozark candidates, judging from present conditions there.

## Moore Still to be Heard From

Internal Revenue Collector George H. Moore is expected at any moment to definitely announce his intentions. If he enters the gubernatorial list he will take an official furlough and devote his whole time to his candidacy. If he does file the Tenth and Eleventh and Twelfth Congressional Districts will go heavy for him, and in addition he will be strong up and down the Mississippi river and as far inland as Washington, in Franklin county. Four years ago when Atkinson ran against Governor Gardner he only received 900 odd votes in St. Louis. With the wet and dry question as the paramount issue he will not do much better this time. His strength is chiefly in the smaller towns and out on the prairies and in the timbers.

From Kansas City comes the information that Ton Pendergast since the Joplin convention has deserted Judge Mayer and is now, together with Joe Shannon and William T. Kemper, the Kansas City Post and Burris Jenkins, for Col. Garrett.

## REPUBLICAN POLITICS AND POLITICIANS

(By A. T. Edmonston.)

Jefferson City, Mo., April 29.—Sedalia will be well represented on both the Republican and Democratic official tickets to be submitted to the voters of Missouri on primary day, August 3. Four candidates, John L. Sullivan, Senator Mark A. McGruder, C. M. Harrison and Attorney Harvey D. Dow, two aspiring for party honors on each ticket, hail from there. Another co-incidence is that two of opposite faith and belief want to be nominated for Attorney-General by their respective parties and run against each other at the November election, and the other two seek their party nominations for Secretary of State to measure swords against one another when the big event of next fall comes off. Dow is as dry as the Sahara desert.

With the four Sedalians in the race for the primary contest it is more political publicity than this city has had since the advent of the present state-wide primary system, although in the past citizens of that burg with the ambition of being elected to a State office, have lived with one another for a nomination on the Republican ticket. State Senator McGruder started the political buzz in Sedalia three months ago by filing for the Democratic nomination for Attorney-General, intending to land the honor through the record he had made as Democratic floor leader in the last Senate. Thursday, Attorney Dow, who is president of the Republican Clubs of Missouri, formally announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination, the same berth. Both are from Sedalia and Dow is a member of the Republican State Committee from the Seventh Congressional District. If the pair land the respective glories they are seeking, a hot contest will follow for the glory at the general election of carrying Sedalia, their home city, and Pettis county which is exceedingly close when the honors are even. As to the result over the State, if both should be nominated for Attorney-General, Senator McGruder will readily defeat Attorney Dow, regardless of how popular the latter may be in Pettis county of which he was once Prosecuting Attorney.

Editor Harrison, while now running a paper at Booneville in addition to the sideline of running for the Republican nomination for Secretary of State, is probably best known as the former Editor of the Sedalia Capital, the Republican organ of Central Missouri. He lived at Sedalia then and until a few months ago. His announcement that he would run for the

nomination on the "gop" ticket came from this flourishing manufacturing and railroad center.

Secretary of State Sullivan was born and raised in Sedalia, moving from there to the State Capitol city when elected, but that city is still his voting place and therefore his legal home. He is again seeking the same nomination on the Democratic ticket and it looks now like the nomination will be handed him entirely without a contest. As an efficient State official he has already given Sedalia, his birthplace, favorable prominence through the fact that he is classed all over Missouri as being one of the most competent Secretaries of State the Commonwealth has ever had.

When the four political warhorses of Sedalia—Sullivan, Dow, Senator McGruder and Harrison—don their war paint and commence their real activities after June 3, the day official entries for the primary come to a close, that city will be in the limelight for political publicity until at least August 3, the day the Democrats and Republicans of the State name their party tickets, and more or less from then on until election day as the chances of the quartet reaping what they are after are very good at the present moment. It is a huge honor for a city of 35,000 to have four citizens big enough politically and otherwise to aspire to four high-class nominations at the same primary and have such a splendid chance of succeeding.

Another co-incidence in this remarkable Sedalia political climax which faces the two dominating parties at the coming primary is that both Senator McGruder and Attorney Dow's aspirations to land the nomination for Attorney-General is being disputed by two or three other party opponents, while the Democratic party seems willing to let Secretary of State Sullivan run alone for renomination and no Republican has come forward so far and announced he would contend against Harrison for the partisan place he aspires to land.

Four years ago Sedalia gained political prominence through furnishing two candidates, Judge Henry Lamm and John A. Swanger, to run against one another for the Republican nomination for Governor. It was a warmly contested "gop" derby but Judge Lamm finally gained the support of the Republican machine of St. Louis and won out by nearly 15,000, Swanger running a good second among four candidates. At the election Judge Lamm was defeated by Frederick D. Gardner of St. Louis, Missouri's present Governor.

## Col. Ruby D. Garrett Files for Governor.

While on the subject of Governor it may prove news to state that while Attorney Dow of Sedalia was filing for the Republican nomination for Attorney-General a special delivery letter reached Secretary of State Sullivan containing the official entry of Col. Ruby D. Garrett of Kansas City into the race for the Democratic nomination for Governor. He is a lawyer, but during the recent war he quit a lucrative practice to enlist for service in France, entering as a private in the illustrious Rainbow Division and emerging at the close of the hostilities with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. The other Democrats who have filed for the gubernatorial plum, are: John M. Atkinson, formerly of Ripley county but now practicing law in St. Louis; Judge and former State Senator Charles H. Mayer of St. Joseph; Wallace Crossley, the present Lieutenant-Governor, a newspaper man of Warrensburg, and Representative and former State Senator Frank H. Farris of Phelps county.

## A BISHOP IN THE SENATE

Bishop McMurtry sees no hope in the Senate, because he went into the gallery and found the floor occupied by a Senator who was making a speech to a large audience of six of his fellow members, four of whom were asleep. The good bishop ought to know that listening to speeches is not the serious work of the Senate. Probably most of the other members were attending committee meetings, where real work was being done. Of the six in their seats the four who were sleeping were the most hopeful. They were at least refreshing themselves for work when the time came. The only really foolish man of the lot was the one who was making the speech. He might have had it printed in the record and saved himself all that work, unless he was practicing it for home delivery later. As for the two who were awake and enduring the affliction of the speaker, there is nothing to be said for them unless they were watchers of the two parties, on duty to see that the other side did not put something over. The real man to be pitied was the substitute for the vice president who was sitting in the chair. They have as yet found no way to keep a session going without a victim in the chair.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

## CONGRESSIONAL JOY RIDE

Some hundred or more members of Congress are preparing for a prolonged joy ride. Starting sometime in July, traveling in a Government transport, they plan to visit Hawaii, the Philippines, China and Japan, for the purpose of "studying Oriental problems." Just what "Oriental problems" require first-hand study on the part of the stalwart statesmen of Congress is not quite clear, nevertheless a few weeks spent riding the ocean waves with a few pleasant evenings on the moonlit beaches of Hawaii and the Orient will be far more pleasant than if they were spent in Washington wrestling with the vexing problems of reconstruction which Congress was elected to solve. Besides, many of these problems are like the two-edged sword, they cut two ways, and for political reasons may better be left unsolved until the national election is over.

Each Congressman will be required to pay \$1.25 per day toward the expenses of the joy ride—the Federal treasury footing the remainder of the bill, which, of course, is quite in line with the Republican party's widely proclaimed policy of economy.

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## PROSPEROUS CONDITIONS IN MISSOURI

(By A. T. Edmonston.)

Jefferson City, Mo., April 22.—That prosperity has full possession of Missouri and will be much in evidence through the entire year, regardless of the high cost of living, is vividly illustrated by some facts and figures just given out by Secretary of State John L. Sullivan, dealing with the remarkable increase in issuance of automobile State plates and licenses during January, February and March of 1920, as compared with the same months of both 1919 and 1918.

The cash collections of the Automobile Department January, February and March, 1920, totaled \$1,606,646, as compared to \$1,154,390 for the same first quarter of 1919 when all previous records in this respect were broken, and \$1,074,969, the first quarter of 1918. The 1920 collection up to April 1, exceeded those of 1919, the same period, by \$451,256, a gain of nearly 39.1 per cent, and over those of 1918 by \$530,678, a gain of nearly 50 per cent.

These collections for three years, totaling \$3,855,004, go into the good-roads fund of Missouri and after being proportioned and allotted to the 114 counties of Missouri and the city of St. Louis, go to build and reconstruct highways, streets and other similar thoroughfares. Each county and St. Louis, to share in these allotments, must spend a similar amount annually on highways and other public avenues of intercourse. In that appropriate manner automobile and truck owners and licensed chauffeurs are given back the sums they put out yearly for plates and licenses, it representing bread cast upon water, which really returns in the beneficial and substantial form of better highways, streets and boulevards.

## Vote for the Big Bond Issue.

At the November, 1920, election the voters of Missouri will be called upon to approve a State bond issue of \$60,000,000 to be used in building and reconstructing the roads of the State free of cost to all regular taxpayers of the State. The annual receipts from the State Automobile Licensing Department are to be used to pay the interest and create a sinking fund which will be large enough at the end of twenty-five years to redeem the outstanding bonds. It is figured that through spending \$60,000,000 in one lump sum to give Missouri several east-and-west and north-and-south substantial across-the-State highways, more permanent good can be accomplished than to only spend \$3,000,000 each year. In addition to the \$60,000,000 there will be available in 1921 after the bond-selling amendment has been adopted, the Federal funds appropriated for the same purpose and the regular county and municipality road funds, and the other funds the State collects annually which go into the same channel.

Some Interesting Statistical Information  
Automobiles are still classed as

costly luxuries, especially with the prevailing high cost of gasoline and accessories, and the ever-increasing price of the cars themselves, regardless of how plentiful they are everywhere, and for this reason the number now in use, compared to similar returns for 1919, serves as an efficient barometer on which to gauge the 1920 prosperity of Missouri.

The annual day for renewing automobile plates and licenses in Missouri is February 1 of each year. January,

February and March are the months when the automobile department of the Secretary of State runs day and night, including holidays and Sundays, to keep pace with the demand for new plates and licenses. During the months of January, February and March, 1920, Secretary of State Sullivan issued 221,662 owners' plates, thereby breaking all previous high records in this respect. In January, February and March, 1919, when 160,557 plates were issued to 145,015 for the same three months of 1918, it was thought the high-water mark had been attained.

Up to April 1, 1920, the State Automobile Licensing Department, James O'Connor in charge, also issued a total of 2,141 dealers' plates, 5,490 dealers' duplicate plates, 20,207 motorcycle plates, 19,114 chauffeurs' badges, and recorded 2,205 transfers of plates through changes in the ownership of automobiles, trucks and similar vehicles, breaking all previous records along these lines by from 20 to 35 per cent.

The St. Louis branch of Secretary of State Sullivan's Automobile Licensing Department, Peter Schilling in charge, in January and March of 1920 issued plates for and registered 43,775 car owners; 7,254 chauffeurs and 518 motorcycles.

The Kansas City branch, the same two months of 1920, issued plates for and registered 29,150 car owners' 293 motorcycles and 2,629 chauffeurs' badges, and the St. Joseph office, 7,708 car owners' plates, 342 chauffeurs' badges and 91 motorcycle plates.

## THE LOST VOICE

Seated one day in the office, Distracted and ill at ease, I wildly jiggled the phone-hook And Central said "Number, Please." I know not what number I gave her, 'Tis vanished beyond recall; I know I was flabbergasted That she answered the phone at all.

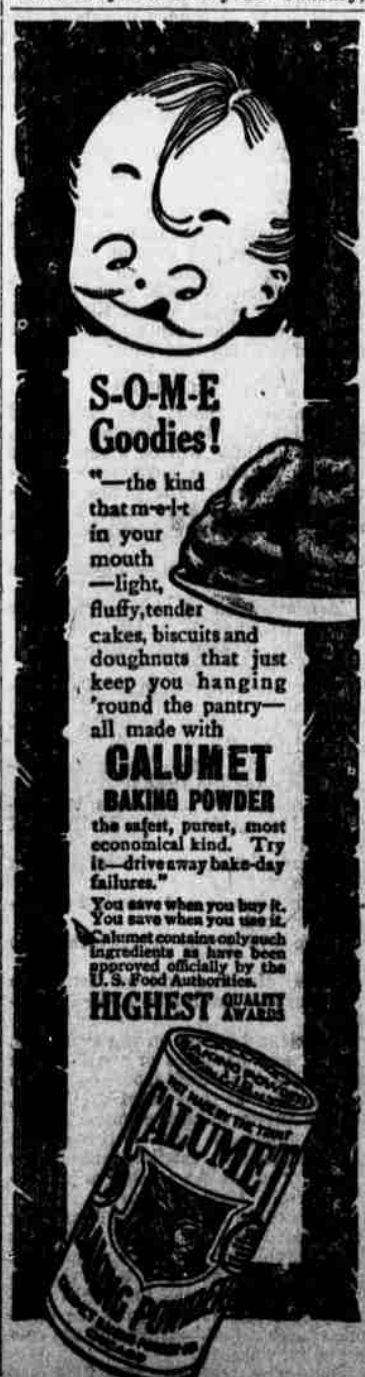
It filled me with sheer amazement, It filled me with fierce delight, For when she repeated the number She actually got it right. I glued the phone to my ear drum, And my heart beat high and fast As I said to myself "Eureka, I shall get that call at last."

I waited and waited and waited, Once more I seized the hook, Between the thumb and finger And shook, and shook, and shook, But I listened and listened vainly, The sun had waned and set And the stars were out, but Central Had made no answer yet.

It may be she'll answer some time, But I wonder now and then If only when I'm in heaven Shall I hear that voice again.

—Contributed by a reader.

Public utility cost of operation is being seriously affected by advancing money rates. These facts must be recognized by public utility commissions in establishing rates for public utility service.



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